



TRANSPORTATION FOR A NEW CENTURY

*A report to the people of Miami-Dade County
No. 7, Summer 2004*

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The Transportation Planning Agency for Miami-Dade County



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Mission Statement

The MPO's mission is to plan transportation facilities and services that are integrated and efficient while providing effective community participation.

Our Miami-Dade Transportation Partners



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TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

Street Cars for South Beach

On September 25, 2003, the MPO Governing Board adopted a locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the Bay Link project based on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement which addressed cost, ridership, and other pertinent issues for the considered alternatives. The Bay Link LPA consists of a streetcar system operating from Downtown Miami along the MacArthur Causeway to South Miami Beach. The LPA was

also endorsed by the cities of Miami and Miami Beach through an extensive public involvement process. Phase II of the study has already begun and will include activities such as station and facilities planning. Future design and engineering phases for the project will be managed by Miami-Dade Transit. For additional information please call (305) 375-4507 or visit the MPO website at www.miamidade.gov/mpo.



Rendering of the proposed streetcar at the intersection of Alton Road and Lincoln Road

MDX is Driving Local Change

The Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) aims to provide a responsive, locally based approach to the issue of mobility in Miami-Dade County. The tolls collected on MDX's roadways (SR 836, SR 878, Gratigny Expwy, SR 112) pay for virtually all of the costs to operate, maintain, and expand the system. In 2003, MDX completed the SR 836 Toll Plaza Reconstruction Project that features two Express SunPass® Lanes with an Automated Vehicle Identification (AVI) system that allows traffic to flow at highway speed; this is the first use of Open Road Tolling in

an urban setting in the state of Florida. The new Express SunPass® Lanes can process more than 2,200 vehicles per hour (compared to a manual coin collector that can only process 450 vehicles per hour or an exact change coin machine, which can only process 550 vehicles per hour). Other projects that are underway as part of MDX's Five-Year Work Program include:

- ◆ the reconstruction of the Killian Parkway interchange (SR 874)
- ◆ the construction of a new westbound exit ramp from SR 112 to Okeechobee Road
- ◆ the reconstruction of a connection from westbound SR 836 to the southbound HEFT (Homestead Extension of Florida's Turnpike)
- ◆ the creation of an additional westbound lane from NW 57th Avenue to SR 826 from SR 836

For more information, call (305) 637-3277.



The completed SR 836 Toll Plaza



Rendering of the Proposed I-395 Corridor

Moving I-395 into the Future

The I-395 corridor is an important transportation link between I-95 and the cities of Miami and Miami Beach. The MPO took the lead in searching for an alternative solution for the reconstruction of I-395 while considering the following:

- ◆ help serve as a catalyst to urban revitalization
- ◆ help promote economic development in the area
- ◆ provide a suitable solution to achieve the community's desire to improve traffic conditions

As a result, an alternative was recommended that is considered a viable engineering solution. It provides adequate transportation capacity for the

future, helps improve the economic condition of the area, and brings new life to the environment for future commercial, residential and recreational developments. It also includes a proposed 41-acre park that provides a connection for the Performing Arts Center with Bicentennial Park, as well the American Airlines Arena, Bayside, and the Bayfront areas. The most important element of this alternative is that the community is able to participate in the final selection and decision-making process to bring the project to reality. For information, call (305) 375-4507, or visit the MPO website at www.miamidade.gov/mpo.

AGENCIES THAT MAKE YOUR TRANSPORTATION

Pedestrian Safety Program Launched

Since 2000, the MPO has been participating in pedestrian safety initiatives funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the University of Florida, and the Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina. The goal of these projects has been to study traffic accidents involving pedestrians and develop countermeasures to help reduce the number of these accidents. By identifying high crash zones and understanding the types of accidents and populations involved, it is possible to focus limited safety resources where they will have the most impact. Elements of the program include the "Three E's:" Education, Engineering and Enforcement. Local agencies involved include the Cities of Miami and Miami Beach Police Departments, Miami-Dade Public Schools, the University of Miami School of Medicine, Jackson Memorial Hospital, and Miami Children's Hospital. Contact the MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian program at (305) 375-1647 for more information.

Turnpike Projects to Improve Safety, Capacity, and Service

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is always striving to improve safety, roadway capacity, and customer service. Work has begun to modify and add more SunPass® lanes at eight toll plazas including the Homestead, Kendall, Bird Road, Okeechobee, and Miramar toll plazas as part of a comprehensive statewide program to enhance the SunPass® program. A project to install median guardrails and resurface an eight-mile stretch of the Turnpike (from just north of I-75 to the

Miramar mainline toll plaza) got underway in January 2004 and is scheduled for completion this fall. Construction that widened the Homestead Extension of Florida's Turnpike (HEFT) from the Okeechobee mainline toll plaza to State Road 836 from four to six lanes is making traveling easier and safer for commuters. For more information call (800) 749-7453.

Highway Safety Improvements Have Everyone Smiling

The SunGuide Road Rangers program is a free service provided by the FDOT and the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) through contracted specialized tow trucks that help stranded motorists, remove roadway debris, and assist the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) during incidents on area highways. Road Rangers assist more than 10,000 motorists a month!

Safety with Information Technology Systems

Dialing 511 can help commuters navigate a safe route to their destination. 511 is a service that helps re-route vehicles during major incidents, provides incident information and guides drivers to emergency areas off the main highway. By dialing 511, information can be accessed 24 hours, seven days a week in the tri-county region for FREE.

How to Get Home in Case of Emergency

Want to share your ride, but worried you might have an emergency when you are at work? The Emergency Ride Home program, provided by South Florida Commuter Services, is your commuter insurance. Commuters who carpool, vanpool, bike, use transit, or walk at least three times per week are eligible for a FREE taxi ride home from their workplace in the event of an emergency or unscheduled overtime. Use of the program includes up to six FREE taxi rides per year. All participants in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties are eligible. Sign up today at www.1800234RIDE.com or call (800) 234-RIDE (7433).



- SAFETY
- ◆ Freedom from injury
- ◆ A device to protect in
- SECURITY
- ◆ Freedom from
- ◆ Freedom from
- ◆ Something that makes

Safe School Transport

The Miami-Dade County Public School District is implementing new technologies and training standards to make sure your children are safe and secure by making school bus safety a priority. A greater focus on student management techniques coupled with a move towards air conditioned school buses, are reducing incidents of misconduct on Miami-Dade school buses. In addition, buses are moving toward computerized routing to maximize the efficiency of their routes. Efficient bus routes greatly benefit both students and parents, and have saved the School District over \$2.5 million per year in reduced operating costs.

Finally, automated Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) are being placed in buses. GPS gives bus drivers and bus dispatchers an exact position of the bus through the use of satellites. This state-of-the-art system will help to locate buses in case of an emergency.



TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SAFE AND SECURE

Improving Transit System Security

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) continues the efforts to enhance security put in place after September 11, 2001. Enhancements include:

- ◆ added security posts
- ◆ more frequent inspections of passengers and facilities by security officers
- ◆ plans to increase security activities during elevated threat levels
- ◆ plans to implement the Transit Watch Program

The Transit Watch Program was developed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for use

throughout the U.S. transit industry. It uses an ad campaign that encourages passengers to report unusual or suspicious activities to transit authorities.

MDT is also in the beginning stages of adding real-time surveillance capabilities to its passenger vehicles and facilities. While MDT has long been recognized for its focused, cohesive, and effective security program, the security enhancements over the last 24 months have taken MDT to even greater heights. To learn more about MDT's security program, please call the Office of Safety and Security at (305) 375-4240.

Security Remains Priority One at the Seaport

In a continuous effort to maintain the highest standards of security, the Miami-Dade Seaport initiated a comprehensive security program integrating direct channels of communication between the Seaport and various law enforcement agencies. Enhancements have been made to Seaport infrastructure and access controls without compromising the efficient movement of commercial activity. The Port of Miami remains the undisputed "Cruise Capital of the World," in addition to the busiest

container port in Florida and the eleventh busiest container port in the country. To safeguard its bustling economic growth, the Seaport has been working with the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to utilize advanced technologies for screening shipping containers transported through the Port of Miami. The CBP utilizes an advanced technology for container content detection with gamma rays called "the Eagle" which is mobilized to different worksites by truck to determine whether or not the contents of the containers are hazardous or illegal cargo. The Seaport closely scrutinizes all persons seeking access to work at its facilities within its "restricted area" by requiring that prospective Seaport and tenant employees successfully complete a fingerprint criminal history background check prior to issuance of a seaport identification card. Through this process, persons with outstanding warrants for arrest have been identified and detained, ensuring safety at the Seaport.

The Airport's Safety Mission

Security as a means of keeping the skies safe. Visits from abroad require a digital photograph and prints of the two index fingers. The fingerprints, taken on a biometric scanner, are checked to see if they match prints taken at consulates where visitors received their visas. In its trial run in Atlanta, the new program turned up 21 people on the FBI's criminal watch list for crimes including drug offense, rape, and visa fraud. The process takes approximately 15 seconds per passenger, maximizing security benefits while minimizing passenger inconvenience. MIA employees are always looking out for your safety by keeping an eye open for suspicious items or behavior.

Riding Safe with South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA, formerly Tri-Rail) has instituted new security and safety features and programs over the past year. SFRTA initiated a new security committee, the "South Florida Transit Police and Security Committee," representing all transit modes in South Florida, along with several local police agencies. This committee meets quarterly and discusses special issues or concerns facing the community and transit agencies.

In addition, SFRTA has developed and distributed a "First Responder Training Manual" for all law enforcement and fire/rescue agencies that

would respond to a SFRTA train disaster. SFRTA conducts disaster drills and training with local police and fire/rescue agencies. Each Tri-Rail train now contains automated external defibrillators (EAED), which are available for public emergencies on the trains.

Finally, SFRTA is currently working on new initiatives that will add antenna towers to enhance the current corridor communication system, install video surveillance cameras on all existing rail car fleets, and install security barriers to provide limited access to train engineers operating in the cab cars. For more information call (800) TRI-RAIL (874-7245).

SunGuide Takes Steps to Bring Traffic Management into the 21st Century

SunGuide's operations are now coordinated by a new ultra-modern nerve center. The recently completed 32,000 square-foot building boasts an oval-shaped central Traffic-Operations Room (TOR) designed to provide optimal visual access to a Video Wall showing camera views of major highways throughout South Florida. The Video Wall displays a map allowing operators from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and dispatchers from the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to superimpose live images of incidents over a static map. The Operators and Dispatchers coordinate vital emergency and traffic operations efforts using these visual displays to facilitate their response to congestion and traffic incidents, thereby improving response time and overall traffic flow. In addition, coordination efforts with other law enforcement agencies will make up the Joint Dispatch Initiative, which will assist in managing traffic during emergency evacuation situations. FDOT is currently expanding the SunGuide Advanced Traffic Management System along the SR 826 East-West Corridor and the Upper Florida Keys under the first design-build contract of its kind in the region.



SunGuide Services

(305) 914-3838
www.sunguide.org



SunGuide Variable Message Sign (VMS) making motorists aware of current roadway conditions

Get Involved in Getting Your People to Work: Vanpool Their Stress Away



The Vanpool Program has saved 500,000 trips, 17 million vehicle miles, and over 600 parking spaces since its inception in 1998

Attracting and keeping good employees is a major business concern. Not getting the employees you want and need, or losing them over worksite access, parking, or a long commute can be expensive, time-consuming, and unnecessary. To help employers get their employees involved in ride-sharing, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is working together with the FDOT

Districts Six and Four, Palm Beach MPO, Broward County MPO, South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS) and VPSI, Inc. A Vanpool is a group of seven to fifteen commuters who choose to ride to work each day in a comfortable passenger van. Currently, there are 78 vanpools operating in the program. To learn more, contact the Vanpool Program at (305) 558-1355 or SFCS at (800) 243-RIDE (7433).

Keeping Citizens in the Know About Transportation Projects

The MPO has been steadily working to keep the public informed about transportation improvements. A new website has been designed for citizens to be updated on any transportation project that is currently in progress or will begin in the next five years.

The website was launched in January 2004 to provide citizens with a tool that is available 24 hours, seven days a week in a user-friendly format. It is available through the Miami-Dade County website (www.miamidade.gov). Click on "My Neighborhood," then click on "Select Item," and select "Transportation Improvement." Once there, you can search for any transportation-related project within the County by using an address, landmark, intersection, or project type. When the project is found, the page will contain the name of the project and the Project Manager's information. The intention of this website is to help make finding transportation projects in your neighborhood an easy process.

Miami-Dade Municipalities Doing Their Part

Being mobile in the "City Beautiful" just got a lot easier, thanks to the five, vintage-style trolleys that went into service on November 25, 2003. The trolleys are part of the Urban Improvement Program of the City of Coral Gables, which was set in place to assist the flow of traffic in the commercial areas and to provide connectivity to the Metrorail. For the week ending March 26, 2004, the four-month-old program reached a significant milestone in its increasingly popular service--the 100,000th rider. This milestone comes on the heels of the announcement that the trolleys had reached a day-high record of 2,500 passengers. "Coral Gables is the first municipality in Miami-

Dade County to successfully implement a traffic program that makes use of the half-penny sales tax," said Coral Gables City Commissioner and MPO Board Member William Kerdyk. "It's gratifying that the community has embraced the trolley program as wholeheartedly as they have. Numbers don't lie." For more information call (305) 460-5070. Other Municipalities operating transit circulator services include:

- ◆ Aventura
- ◆ Bal Harbour
- ◆ Hialeah
- ◆ Miami Beach
- ◆ North Bay Village
- ◆ Sunny Isles Beach
- ◆ Surfside



The New Coral Gables Trolley



The Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust Helps with the People's Plan

When voters approved an additional half-penny sales surtax to improve transit and transportation in Miami-Dade County, they also approved the creation of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT). The CITT is a 15-member Board made up of citizens that are selected through a Nominating Committee process by the Board of County Commissioners, the County Mayor, and the Miami-Dade League of Cities to represent all communities throughout the County. The CITT is hard at work monitoring the seamless and efficient implementation of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) and the expenditure of transit surtax funds in collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners, other County agencies, and municipalities. CITT responsibilities include:

- ◆ Monitoring, overseeing, reviewing, auditing, and investigating the implementation of the transportation and transit projects listed in the PTP, as well as all other projects funded in whole or in part with surtax proceeds.
- ◆ Ensuring compliance with any limitations imposed in the levy of the expenditure of the surtax proceeds.
- ◆ Ensuring compliance with any applicable federal and state requirements.
- ◆ Monitoring, overseeing and periodically reporting to the County Commission on the level of participation by the Community Small Business Enterprises (CSBE) and Community Business Enterprises (CBE) in contracts funded in whole or in part with surtax proceeds.
- ◆ Recommending ways to increase public participation.

While the Board of County Commissioners and the Metropolitan Planning Organization provide important policy and planning roles with regards to transportation mobility in our County, the CITT's approval of PTP amendments and surtax-funded contracts provide an added "check and balance" that assures our citizens that their half-penny is being well spent.

All CITT meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes are posted on the PTP website, www.trafficrelief.com. The CITT encourages citizen participation and invites Miami-Dade residents to attend regularly scheduled meetings, which are open to the public. The monthly full CITT Board meeting is televised live on Miami-Dade Television. For additional information on the CITT or PTP, please call (305) 375-5194.

First PTP Rail Project Underway

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) is aggressively moving forward with the Earlington Heights/Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) extension of the Metrorail. This is one of the rail projects approved by Miami-Dade voters in 2002 as part of the PTP. As a result of a recent commitment by the Florida

Department of Transportation (FDOT) to contribute \$100 million to the project, this leg of the Metrorail connecting the existing Earlington Heights station to the MIC at the Miami International Airport will likely be the first to be placed into passenger service. PTP funds will also be used for the project. In addition, County officials expect to use the investments of state and local monies for this project as leverage to obtain federal transportation funds to build future legs of Metrorail.

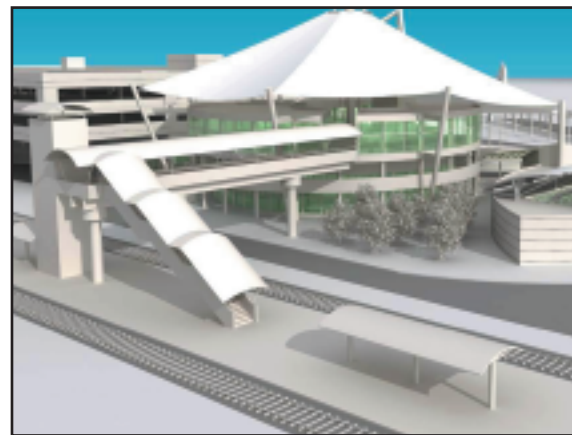


Proposed Earlington Heights/MIC Metrorail Extension

Public Works Department Working for You

The Miami-Dade County Public Works Department (PWD) broke ground on the PTP first resurfacing and remarking project. The project will incorporate a one square mile area from NW 151 Street to NW 167 Street, between NW 47 and NW 57 Avenues. The groundbreaking ceremony took place at the northwest corner of NW 157 Street and NW 47 Avenue on Thursday, January 29, 2004. As part of PWD's two-year plan for the PTP, 15 site-specific projects (selected by the Board of County Commissioners) and various neighborhood improvement projects including new bikeways, drainage, resurfacing, sidewalks, school flashers, traffic calming devices and guardrails, will also be undertaken. The estimated cost is more than \$38 million. Through its newly created PTP Office, the PWD is working to expedite the various contractual processes and enable timely implementation of all projects.

Other Important Projects Underway



Rendering of the proposed Golden Glades Multimodal Transportation Facility



Rendering of the planned Rental Car Facility at the Miami Intermodal Center

- ◆ **Golden Glades Multimodal Transportation Facility:** This facility will provide comfort to travelers by integrating various transportation modes in the vicinity into a new multi-modal passenger center.
- ◆ **SR 836 Extension:** Miami-Dade County commuters traveling on SR-836 west to south or north to east will have an easier ride. This extension will connect to 137th Avenue.
- ◆ **Krome Avenue (from US 27 to SW 296th Street):** Safety improvements are being implemented to greatly improve driving conditions along this corridor.
- ◆ **NW 74th Street:** A new road will connect the Palmetto Expressway to a new Turnpike interchange at NW 74th Street.
- ◆ **Miami Intermodal Center:** This large multimodal transportation hub will move travelers throughout Miami-Dade County from the vicinity of the Miami International Airport (MIA).

For more information on these and many other projects visit www.miamidade.gov/mpo or call (305) 375-4507.

